

"I was spanked and I turned out okay" (??)

—The following excerpts are from the booklet **Plain Talk About Spanking** (www.nospank.net/pt2007.htm)

"Criticism of traditional parenting methods is typically met with suspicion, resistance, and hostility. Were this fundamental conservatism of human nature to express itself in words, it might say something like this:

"If the old methods worked well enough for past generations, they'll surely work for the next. Don't fix it if it isn't broken. Don't mess with success. Sometimes children just need a good smack on the bottom to get their attention. It never did a child any harm. That's how I was raised, and I turned out okay.

"But just how well did we really turn out? Sooner or later we have to admit that perhaps not all family traditions are created equal. Maybe, in some cases, they've made our lives more precarious and unhappy than they need to have been. And maybe—just *maybe*—we haven't turned out quite as "okay" as we'd like to believe and have others believe.

"When we praise our parents' treatment of us when we were little, are we merely fishing for approval of our own similar behaviors now? Are we trying to reassure ourselves that the way we want to remember things is the way they really were and ought to remain?

"Let's test the I-turned-out-okay argument by examining a few real-life examples from my own childhood. See if they apply to you.

1. There were ashtrays in every room of our house. My parents smoked, as did most adult visitors to our home. The aroma of cigarette, cigar and pipe smoke was always present. Nobody minded. In fact, not one day passed in my early life when I was not exposed to tobacco smoke. I was even exposed in the womb because my mother smoked when she was pregnant with me. *And I turned out okay.*
2. The first family car I remember was a 1937 Chevrolet sedan. It had no seat belts. When we traveled, I was merely plunked down on the back seat with the expectation that gravity would keep me there. It did. *And I turned out okay.*
3. All the places in which I lived as a child were painted with lead-based paint. *And I turned out okay.*
4. I used a bicycle throughout my childhood and teen years, but never wore any kind of protective headgear. *And I turned out okay.*

"Was my family wise or just lucky? Today, we don't do those things anymore. We don't take such risks, and we don't expose our children to such risks—not if we know the facts."

The **Plain Talk About Spanking** booklet discusses various "spanking"-related issues, including: the lasting effect; lost trust; neglect & permissiveness; spousal battery; escalation; physical dangers of hitting the hands or buttocks; shaking; spanking; smoking, drinking & drugs; brain development; prejudice, etc. ~HI Dads~

Project NoSpank

Project NoSpank is a resource for parents, students, educators, education policymakers, healthcare providers, children's advocates, and all others who are concerned with the safety and wellbeing of children.

In addition to the free *Plain Talk About Spanking* booklet (see page 1), Project NoSpank (www.nospank.net) provides research and discussions on topics including: "Childhood origins of terrorism;" "Violence toward children in the classroom;" "Violence toward children at home;" "Christians for nonviolent parenting;" posters, stickers & seals; and more. ~HI Dads~

"If I can't spank, what can I do?"

Be firm, but fair: Use POSITIVE Discipline

Fathers are often expected to be the parent who punishes the children. With this expectation comes our responsibility as parents—as fathers—to learn how to guide our keiki with *positive* discipline.

Positive discipline includes:

1. **Create a set of rules.** Set rules and consequences that fit our child's age and development. Be clear about what is expected—and what is not OK. Enforce rules and consequences consistently and promptly.
2. **Don't hit.** Physical punishment teaches fear—not respect. If you feel angry, take time to cool off. Then deal with the misbehaviors. People are not for hitting...and children are people, too.
3. **Praise good behavior.** Let your child know you appreciate it when he or she is well-behaved.
4. **Offer a choice.** Offering your child a choice of several activities—rather than deciding for them—encourages cooperation and teaches responsibility.
5. **Try a time-out.** If your child misbehaves, give her or him a few minutes alone to calm down and think about their behavior (while you cool off, too).

Tell your child that you still love them...even when discipline is necessary.

Adapted from: *Being a Good Father*, Channing Bete Co. (www.channing-bete.com) ~HI Dads~

HCD awarded two education materials grants worth \$5,500

NFI Daddy Pack™ & Fatherhood Resource Center grants

The Hawai'i Coalition for Dads has received Daddy Pack™ materials and a fully-stocked Fatherhood Resource Center from the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI: www.fatherhood.org).

Each **Daddy Pack™** contain 3 NFI brochures (*So You're a New Father or Are About to Become One!*, *10 Ways to be a Better Dad*, and *Keeping Your Child Safe from Newborn to Toddler*), and a "Directions for Dads" auto-navigation style interactive CD ROM. This NFI Daddy Pack™ distribution grant is worth \$2,500 (196 organizations applied).

The **Fatherhood Resource Center** includes NFI brochures (*12 Questions to ask Before Becoming a Father*, *10 Ways to be a Better Dad*, *How to Help Your Child Do Well In School*, *12 Simple Ways to Balance Work & Family*, *7 Benefits of Marriage for Men*, *Creating A Safe Home For Your Family*), posters, a 2-sided kiosk for HCD's public education displays, and *24/7 Dad* interactive CD ROMs—worth \$3,000 (360 organizations applied).

With these educational materials grants HCD is partnering with NFI to improve the well being of children and their families by increasing the proportion of children growing up with involved, responsible, and committed fathers.

These free fatherhood materials are available for fathers and family members. Send a list of the materials sought with your name and address to: Hawai'i Coalition for Dads; c/o PACT; 1485 Linapuni St. #105; Honolulu, HI 96819; call 808/841-2245; or e-mail HawaiiDads@pacthawaii.org. ~HI Dads~



May 20 - 23, 2008, Waikiki Sheraton Hotel, Honolulu

Men in Early Childhood Education—Working Forum

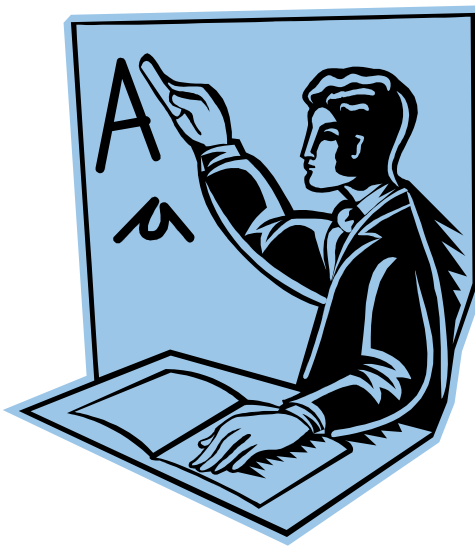
A major challenge for men and women educational professionals worldwide is increasing the number of men working in programs serving young children.

The 2008 *Working Forum on Men in Early Childhood Education* will create a global meeting place for over 250 early childhood professionals from many cultures and nations to discuss the value of gender balance in Early Childhood Education (ECE), and the benefits and barriers to men's full participation.

This Working Forum reflects the global surge of interest in changing roles for men and women in the care and education of young children. Topics that will be addressed include: the historical context for men in ECE, research on men in ECE, myths and stereotypes about men in ECE, constraints on achieving success in balancing gender, success stories, and proven strategies for improving gender balance.

The *Working Forum on Men in Early Childhood Education* is sponsored by the World Forum Foundation in collaboration with www.MenTeach.org and the Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC: www.hawaiihaeyc.org).

For more information on the Forum, go to: www.worldforumfoundation.org/MECE. ~HI Dads~



Tips for Helping Your Child Deal With Bullying

Dads, you are often the last to know that your child is the victim of bullying. Children often do not share that they are being bullied with their parents due to shame and embarrassment. So it is very important that you ask your child open-ended questions about their day frequently and provide them with helpful advice if you discover that he or she is being bullied.

The following are tips to help your child handle school bullying.

- **Do not instruct your child to fight back.** Contact your child's school and learn about the school policy and how to access available resources.
- **Talk with your child about meeting new friends** that are supportive and who have common interests. Teaching your child appropriate social skills that build self-esteem will make them less likely targets.
- **Encourage your child to speak with an adult** at the school. Teachers, principles, or guidance counselors are available to help them stop the bullying.
- **Ask your child if he or she has ideas about how they will address the bullying.** Dads, you can role play with your children in order to help them feel comfortable and confident in their approach.
- Finally, it is important for you to **explain to your child that sometimes all that is necessary is avoidance.** Bullies may give up if they don't get attention.

Dads, it is important to consider that all instances of bullying are critical and meaningful to your child. Remember that the goal is to support your child's overall well-being.

Reprinted from: National Fatherhood Initiative's Dad E-mail Service (www.fatherhood.org) 10/3/07 ~HI Dads~

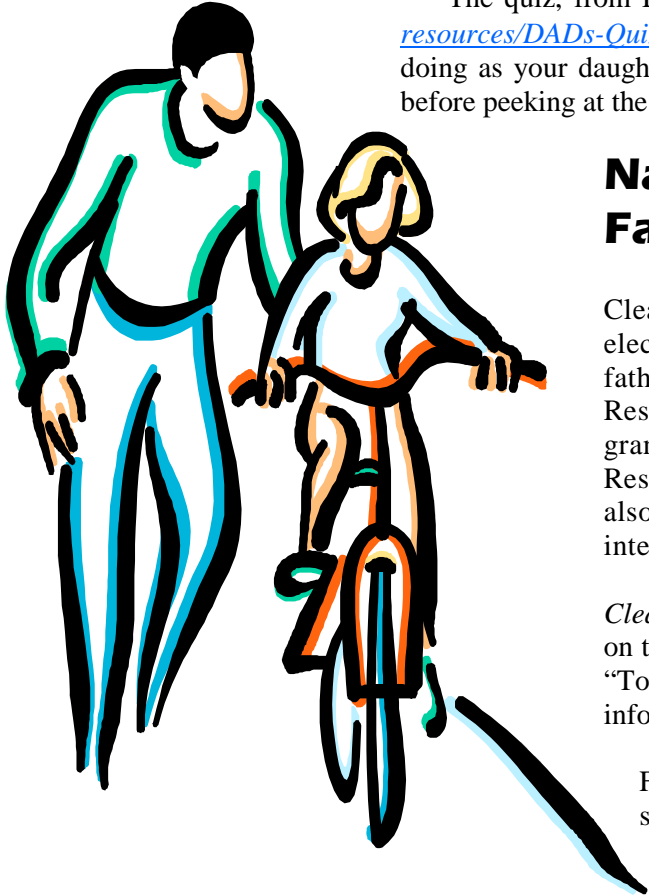
***"Although social change cannot come overnight,
we must always work as though it were a possibility in the morning."***

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

*Online quiz for dads***How well am I doing as my Daughter's Father?**

A short "How Well Am I Doing as My Daughter's Father?" self-assessment quiz is available online.

The quiz, from Dads & Daughters (www.dadsanddaughters.org/free-resources/DADs-Quiz.aspx) is a quick way to understand how well you're doing as your daughter's father. Answer honestly and add up your score before peeking at the scoring key. ~HI Dads~

**National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse**

The National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse (NRFC) provides access to print and electronic publications, timely information on fatherhood issues, and targeted resources that support Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Marriage grantees. Primarily a tool for professionals operating Responsible Fatherhood programs, the NRFC Web site also provides essential information for other audiences interested in fatherhood issues.

Look around the *National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse* web site (www.fatherhood.gov/index.cfm) on the left for resources relevant to who you are or in the "Topics and Tools" section in the lower left for information relevant to a specific subject.

Search their online library for information on Fatherhood from tips for how to be a better father, to statistical profiles, to program evaluations.

You can also sign up for an NRFC email newsletter to receive free email updates on what is new at www.fatherhood.gov. ~HI Dads~

Lack of cooperation by mothers seen as major fathering obstacle by divorced dads**Work seen as biggest obstacle to good fathering**

A 2006 telephone survey of 701 American men selected to be representative of American fathers revealed that "**work responsibilities**" was most frequently seen by **fathers married to their child's mother** as an obstacle to being a good father, with 47 percent saying that it was "a great deal" or "somewhat" of an obstacle.

For these fathers "The media/popular culture," "financial problems," and "A lack of knowledge about how to be a good father," ranked next.

But, fathers not married to the mother of the "focal child" reported resistance and lack of cooperation from that mother to be the most important obstacle to their being good fathers, followed by "work responsibilities," "financial problems," and "treatment of fathers by the courts."

Ninety-nine percent of the fathers agreed that being a father was a very important part of who they are, and 94 percent "strongly agreed." At a minimum, these findings indicate a strong social norm that being a father should be a crucial aspect of a father's identity.

Click on the following web link to get a copy of the 30-page National Fatherhood Initiative's *POPS CULTURE: A National Survey of Dads' Attitudes on Fathering* (www.fatherhood.org/research.asp).

~HI Dads~

Kids Across/Parents Down™ at National Fatherhood Initiative**Have you crossed words with your child lately?**

Each month, the National Fatherhood Initiative brings you “Kids Across Parents Down™—The Original Crossword Puzzle For Kids And Their Favorite Adults” (www.fatherhood.org/kapd.asp) Spend time with your kids by doing these fun (and not-so-hard) puzzle and remember these times forever.

About Kids Across/Parents Down

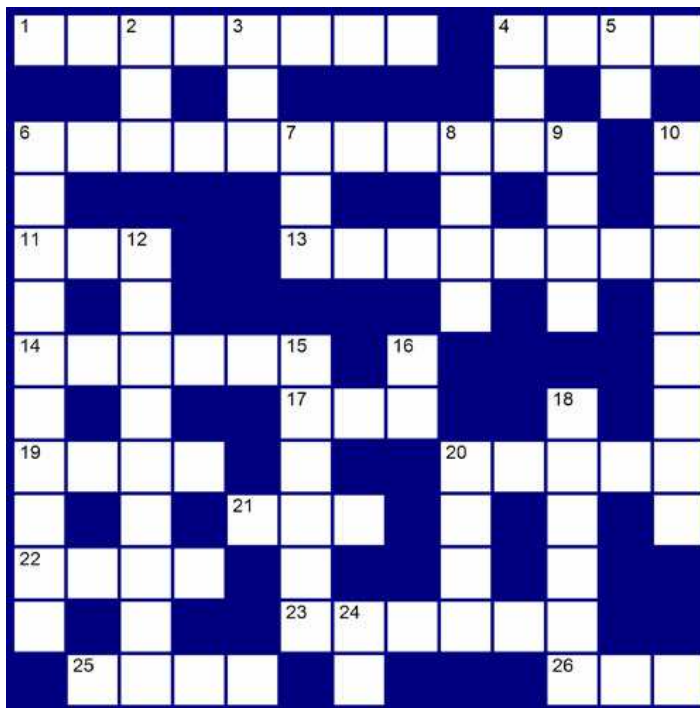
Kids Across Parents Down is a unique vehicle for uniting children and parents in an activity that offers amusement, intellectual stimulation, and an interactive bonding opportunity for dads and their kids.

What makes Kids Across Parents Down puzzles so much fun for kids and adults? First, they are kid-driven—the puzzles allow the child to dominate the activity, offering veteran solvers or puzzle newcomers a fun challenge and making the son or daughter feel like a winner every time. Designed for kids ages 8 to 13 and their parents, the clues are more amusing than difficult, full of puns, word play and other giggles—not the typical, sometimes intimidating crossword experience so many fear.

The puzzle's unique advantage is that if the child (or adult) is momentarily stumped, as the other solver completes the intersecting words, the answers begin to emerge. Both adult and child clues focus on contemporary content, including a lot of popular culture familiar to each solver.

Always safe and appropriate for kids, *Kids Across/Parents Down* never includes violent, sexually explicit, or offensive stereotypical content. The puzzles also strive for diversity in subject matter, exposing parents and children to information about various cultures, races, religions, and backgrounds.

Source: National Fatherhood Initiative (www.fatherhood.org) ~HI Dads~



Support the Hawai'i Coalition for Dads.

Help promote involved, nurturing, responsible fatherhood in Hawai'i.

☐ Please keep me informed about the activities of the Hawai'i Coalition for Dads.

☐ I would like to volunteer to help; contact me.

☐ Here is my contribution. \$ _____

~ Your donations are tax-deductible. ~

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please make your check payable to: **Hawai'i Coalition for Dads/PACT**

...and send it to: 1485 Linapuni St. #105

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96819

Phone: 841-2245

E-mail: HawaiiDads@pacthawaii.org

Hawai'i Coalition for Dads

Promoting involved, nurturing, responsible fatherhood

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The Hawai'i Coalition for Dads, with funding from the HMSA Foundation under the umbrella of Parents And Children Together (PACT), is a group of individuals and organizations that shares information about services to fathers and promotes involved, nurturing, responsible fatherhood.

GOALS:

1. To enhance the ability of Hawai'i's children to grow in peaceful and safe environments.
2. To increase community awareness about fatherhood.
3. To promote the availability and accessibility of quality, father-centered community resources.
4. To advocate for informed public policy regarding fatherhood.
5. To strengthen community collaboration in support of fatherhood.
6. To respect and honor everyone's unique role in children's lives.

Fatherhood & Family Resources

1. **Hilo**: YWCA of Hawaii Island (Healthy Start) (961-3877; ywcawahaiiisland.org)
2. **Kailua-Kona**: Family Support Services of West Hawai'i (326-7778; fsswh.org)
3. **Kaua'i**: Nana's Place/Child and Family Service (338-0252; cfs-hawaii.org)
4. **Maui**: Da dee Fatherhood Program—Maui Family Support Services (242-0900; mfss.org);
Neighborhood Place of Wailuku (986-0700); Maui Economic Opportunity (249-2990; meo.org)
5. **Molokai**: Mediation Center of Molokai (553-3844)

Oahu (and statewide):

6. Hawai'i State Commission on Fatherhood (www.hawaii.gov/dhs/fatherhood/fatherhood)
7. TIFFE (Nurturing Fathers; Playgroups) (596-8433; www.tiffe.org)
8. PACT (Family Centers; Hana Like; Head Start; Family Peace Center) (847-3285; www.pacthawaii.org)
9. Navy Fleet & Family Support Center (Boot Camp For New Dads) (473-4222; www.greatlifeohawaii.com)
10. PARENTS (235-0488); 11. Kathy's Parenting Solutions (352-3303; kathysparentingsolutions.com)
12. The Baby Hui (groups for Dads, and Moms) (735-2484; thebabyhui.org)
13. The Parent Line (Info & Referral) (526-1222; www.theparentline.org) 14. AUW – 211 (auw.org/211)
15. HPIRC (HI Parental Information & Resource Centers) (841-6177; hawaiipirc.org)
16. DOE Family Support (PCNC; Families for R.E.A.L.; VISTA) (733-4476; familysupport.k12.hi.us)
17. SPIN (Special Parent Information Network) (586-8126; spinohawaii.org)
18. Big Brothers Big Sisters (support for single dads and moms) (521-3811; bigshonolulu.org)
19. Good Beginnings Alliance (Playgroups) (531-5502; goodbeginnings.org)
20. Tutu and Me (traveling preschool for Hawaiian families) (524-7633; tutuandme.org)
21. Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center (Hawaiian families) (847-1302; qlcc.org)
22. ALU LIKE (Hawaiian families) (535-6700; alulike.org)

Religious resources: Contact your place of worship...church, temple, synagogue

Internet Resources (check on their "Links," too):

1. **mr.dad** (mrdad.com)
2. **fathers.com** (fathers.com)
3. **Nurturing Father** (nurturingfathers.com)
4. **Nat'l Fatherhood Initiative** (fatherhood.org)
5. **ParentingTime.net** (parentingtime.net)